

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY

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NSC - JESSICA TUCHMAN (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128220

FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM THE SECRETARY; INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SPOP

SUBJECT: REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL POPULATION
POLICY

REF: 75 STATE 297241

1. IN MY FIRST MESSAGE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOREIGN
SERVICE, I MENTIONED POPULATION AS ONE OF THOSE GLOBAL
ISSUES OF INCREASING CONCERN TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND
TO OUR DIPLOMACY. IN THAT CONNECTION, BASIC U.S. POLICY ON
INTERNATIONAL POPULATION ISSUES, AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, HAS
BEEN REAPPROVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRA-
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TION.

2. MOST RECENTLY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, PRESIDENT CARTER
INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON WORLD POPULATION IN THE
COURSE OF HIS STATEMENT OF MAY 23 TO THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES:

"RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IS A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM OF WORLD DIMENSIONS. WORLD POPULATION INCREASED FROM THREE TO FOUR BILLION IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, SUBSTANTIALLY CANCELLING OUT EXPANSION IN WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

"WITHOUT CONTROLLING THE GROWTH OF POPULATION, THE PROSPECTS FOR ENOUGH FOOD, SHELTER, AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS FOR ALL THE WORLD'S PEOPLE ARE DIM. WHERE EXISTENCE IS ALREADY POOR AND PRECARIOUS, EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE OFTEN DEGRADE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

"IT IS, OF COURSE, UP TO EACH NATION TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICIES, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO RESPOND PROMPTLY AND FULLY TO ALL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION AND HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS. AT MY DIRECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STAND READY TO COOPERATE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THROUGH PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, OR THROUGH DIRECT CONTACTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS."

3. IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ON MAY 10, 1977, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WOULD STRIVE PERSONALLY TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN BETTER COOPERATE WITH OTHER NATIONS ON HEALTH, POPULATION AND NUTRITIONAL NEEDS.

4. COMMENDABLE PROGRESS IN SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH HAS
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BEEN MADE IN MANY COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS, BUT EXCESSIVE POPULATION GROWTH CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION, SUBSISTENCE STANDARDS OF LIVING, MALNUTRITION, AND, IN A FEW COUNTRIES, STARVATION AND INCREASED DEATH RATES. INCREASED VIGILANCE AND URGENT ACTION ARE NEEDED IF THESE TRENDS ARE TO BE REVERSED.

5. LEADERS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SOUND POPULATION PROGRAMS. WHERE REQUESTED AND JUSTIFIED, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL PROVIDE CONTINUING AND EVEN EXPANDED SUPPORT TO THOSE PROGRAMS, ALONG WITH OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

6. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS FIELD IS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHERS RATHER THAN TO IMPOSE OUR VIEWS. IN OUR EFFORTS WE SHOULD STRESS THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GAINS FOR THE POOREST NATIONS THAT RESULT FROM REDUCED POPULATION GROWTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. IN ALL THESE

EFFORTS, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE BASIC DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS OR HER RIGHT FREELY TO CHOOSE FAMILY GOALS AND TO HAVE THE INFORMATION AND MEANS TO DO SO. THESE BASIC RIGHTS WERE SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AT THE BUCHAREST CONFERENCE IN 1974.

7. I WILL EXPECT YOU TO CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS PROBLEM YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION AND TO FIND SUITABLE OCCASION, WHEREVER APPROPRIATE, TO CONVEY TO LEADERS OF HOST COUNTRIES THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND MYSELF IN THIS FIELD. VANCE

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